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Session C8- Funding resources and opportunities to enhance sportfish populations, restore sportfish habitat, and improve water quality

Johanna Laderman
Fish America Foundation

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FishAmerica Foundation

Keeping Our Sportfish and Waters Healthy

Johanna Laderman
FishAmerica Foundation

www.fishamerica.org

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The FishAmerica Foundation is the conservation and research foundation of the American Sportfishing Association.

Our mission is to increase the opportunity for sportfishing success and ensure the future of fishing.



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The FishAmerica Foundation invests in:

Local, community-based projects.
Enhancing sportfish populations.
Restoring sportfish habitat.
Improving water quality.



Since 1983, FishAmerica has invested more than **\$11 million** in over **1,000 projects** across the United States and Canada.



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FishAmerica Partnerships

1. US Fish and Wildlife Service
2. NOAA Restoration Center
3. Chesapeake Bay Trust
4. Sportfishing and boating industry.
5. Non-endemic corporations.



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FishAmerica Partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service

1. Created in 2000 to combine efforts and resources for on-the-ground projects in northeast United States and expanded to southeast and midwest regions.
2. Projects include wetlands and riparian area restoration, instream habitat enhancement, and fish passage improvement.
3. Partnership has invested more than \$2 million in projects and leveraged nearly \$10 million in cash and in-kind support and volunteer labor.
4. Projects have restored more than 450 acres of wetlands and opened 100 miles of stream.
5. Funds are directed to local projects where volunteers work with the Service's on-the-ground biologists.



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Before



After

Streambank Stabilization and Instream
Habitat Improvement Project, Wisconsin



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Culvert to Bridge Project, Massachusetts



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FishAmerica Partnership with the NOAA Restoration Center

1. Established in 1998 to fund local efforts to accomplish on-the-ground restoration of marine, estuarine and riparian habitats along the coastal U.S., U.S. Territories of the Caribbean and the Great Lakes Basin.
2. Projects include restoration of salt marshes, mangrove forests, and freshwater habitats important to marine and diadromous sportfish.
3. Partnership has invested in more than 270 projects, leveraging \$6 million in funds into more than \$14 million projects.
4. Emphasis on hands-on, grassroots approach.



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**New Stream
Crossing**



Culvert Replacement Project,
California



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Dam Removal Project, Pennsylvania



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FishAmerica Partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Trust

1. Established in 2004 to restore sportfish habitat, improve water quality, and enhance sportfish stocks in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries of Maryland.
2. Projects include stream restoration, fish passage improvement and dam removal, wetland creation and improvement, riparian restoration, and streambank stabilization.
3. Partnership has invested more than \$400,000 in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
4. Emphasis on the restoration of living resources of the Chesapeake Bay, its rivers, and its streams from the headwaters to the main stem of the Bay



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Seeking Funding for your Fish Passage Project:

1. Search for partners with similar interests as well as those whose mission will benefit from a project.
2. Ask current partners for suggestions of other funding sources.
3. Seek community support.
4. Look at partners of similar projects in other parts of the country.



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When Applying for a Grant

1. Carefully read the entire Request for Proposals **AND** the Application.
2. Determine review or ranking criteria.
3. Contact the funder to discuss your proposed well in advance of the deadline.
4. Gather all necessary paperwork prior to writing your proposal.
5. Take careful note of the deadline.
6. Before submitting, have someone else review RFP and your application.
7. Be prepared to submit additional information.



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What FishAmerica looks for in a project proposal:

1. Completeness of the grant application.
2. Extent to which the proposal describes the project.
3. Technical and scientific merit of the project.
4. Project feasibility.
5. Qualification of applicant and partners to achieve project goals.
6. Cost effectiveness and budget detail and justification.
7. Likelihood of long-term success and degree to which the restoration is self-sustaining.
8. Partnership/cooperation from local community groups and other organizations, including approval/support of participating landowners.



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I received a grant, now what?

1. Know and meet your obligations – ON TIME.
2. Keep in contact with funder – update them often.
3. Be forthcoming about changes in project design, budget and timeline.
4. Ask for help.



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Summary

1. Be creative with funding sources.
2. Know the interests and mission of potential funders.
3. Carefully review RFP and all application materials.
4. Garner a variety of support for your project.
5. Know your deadlines.
6. Talk to current funders about other project ideas.
7. Keep track of reporting requirements.
8. Update your funders even after obligations are met.



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Visit us at
www.fishamerica.org

Contact us at
(703) 519-9691
fishamerica@asafishing.org



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